

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Method for managing a packet switched, centralized conference call between a plurality of terminals, said method comprising at a conference call server:

receiving streams of data packets from each of the plurality of terminals participating in a conference call, wherein each data packet includes either voice data or background noise information and an identifier associated with the respective terminal providing the data packet;

determining, based on the received data packets, if any of the terminals participating in the conference call are currently providing voice data, and, if so, identifying each of the terminals currently providing voice data;

mixing voice data and background noise information included in the received streams of data packets to generate encoded combined data and inserting the encoded combined data into outbound data packets together with indicia identifying any terminal that provided any voice data associated with the encoded combined data for each outbound data packet; and

streaming the outbound data packets to the terminals participating in the conference call.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said identifiers associated to said terminals are identifiers associated randomly to said terminals for said conference call, the method further comprising receiving at said conference call server packets from said terminals participating in said conference call, said packets including a mapping of an identifier associating a respective terminal to an identification of said terminal, and forwarding data corresponding to the identifier-to-terminal mapping from said conference call server to said terminals participating in said conference call.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said conference call server includes in said outbound data packets identifiers associated to terminals currently providing voice data as well as identifiers associated to terminals currently providing background noise information, wherein the identifiers are encoded in a packet header such that any identifier associated with a terminal determined to be currently providing voice data is distinguished from terminals currently providing background noise information.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein identifiers associated to terminals which were determined to provide voice data are separated by a marker from included identifiers associated to other terminals.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 5, wherein said marker corresponds to an identifier associated to said conference call server.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said conference call is based on the Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP), wherein said data packets are RTP packets, wherein said identifiers associated to said terminals are Synchronization Source (SSRC) identifiers, and wherein said identifiers are included by said conference call server in said outbound data packets to a field provided in a packet header for a Contributing Source (CSRC) list.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving said outbound data packets transmitted by said conference call server at a terminal participating in said conference call and pointing out an identification of at least one terminal determined to provide voice data to a user based on an identifier included in said received outbound data packets.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying an active terminal of a plurality of terminals participating in a conference call:

sending a first data packet from a first terminal participating in a conference call to a conference call server, wherein the first data packet includes background noise information and an identifier associated with the first terminal;

receiving a second data packet from the conference call server at the first terminal, wherein the second data packet includes the background noise information mixed with voice data from a second terminal participating in the conference call and an active terminal identifier associated with the second terminal; and

presenting the active terminal identifier and an indicator at the first terminal, wherein the indicator indicates that the second terminal sent the voice data to the conference call server.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the conference call is based on a real-time transport protocol (RTP).

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the first data packet and the second data packet are RTP packets.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for managing a packet switched, centralized conference call between a plurality of terminals, the method comprising:

decoding a first data packet received from a first terminal of a plurality of terminals participating in a conference call at a conference call server, wherein the first data packet includes voice data and an identifier associated with the first terminal;

decoding a second data packet received from a second terminal of the plurality of terminals participating in the conference call at the conference call server, wherein the second data packet includes background noise information;

determining that the first data packet includes the voice data;

mixing the decoded voice data and the decoded background noise information;

inserting the mixed voice data and background noise information into a third data packet together with the identifier; and

sending the third data packet to the plurality of terminals participating in the conference call.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein the received second data packet further includes a second identifier associated with the second terminal.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein the transmitted third data packet further includes the second identifier.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the identifier is included in the third packet at a predetermined position relative to the second identifier.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein a third identifier associated with the conference call server is included as a marker in the third packet between the identifier and the second identifier.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the third identifier is included in the third packet in a plurality of positions.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16 further comprising:

receiving a fourth data packet from a third terminal participating in the conference call, wherein the fourth data packet includes second voice data and a fourth identifier associated with the third terminal;

determining that the fourth data packet includes the second voice data; and

inserting the fourth identifier into the third data packet, wherein mixing the voice data and the background noise information includes the second voice data.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20 wherein a third identifier associated with the conference call server is included as a marker in the third packet between

the second identifier associated with a non-speaking terminal and the identifier and the fourth identifier associated with speaking terminals.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for managing a packet switched, centralized conference call between a plurality of terminals, the method comprising:

receiving a stream of real-time transport protocol (RTP) packets from a plurality of terminals participating in a voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) conference call at a conference call server;

decoding the received stream to extract background noise information and any voice data;

determining if the decoded stream includes any voice data;

if the decoded stream includes voice data, extracting an identifier associated with a first terminal from which the decoded voice data is extracted;

mixing the decoded voice data, if any, with the decoded background noise information;

inserting the mixed voice data and background noise information and a header that includes the extracted identifier, if any, into an outbound RTP packet; and

streaming the outbound RTP packet to the plurality of terminals participating in the VoIP conference call.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22 wherein the decoded stream includes voice data from a first plurality of terminals, and further wherein identifiers associated with the first plurality of terminals are inserted in the header.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23 wherein the decoded stream includes background noise information from a second plurality of terminals, and further wherein second identifiers associated with the second plurality of terminals are inserted in the header.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein a server identifier associated with the conference call server is included in the header as a marker between the identifiers associated with the first plurality of terminals and the second identifier associated with the second plurality of terminals.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25 wherein the server identifier is further included in the header before the identifiers associated with the first plurality of terminals.